



# County of Santa Cruz

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## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Supervisor Neal Coonerty  
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### SUPERVISOR COONERTY URGES BOARD TO OPPOSE THE DIRTY ENERGY PROPOSITION - PROPOSITION 23

At the urging of Supervisor Coonerty, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to oppose Proposition 23, which would roll back California's clean energy and air pollution reduction standards.

Two Texas oil companies are spending millions to push Proposition 23, a deceptive ballot proposition appearing on the November, 2010, ballot.

"Proposition 23 would let polluters off the hook, drastically increasing air pollution and public health risks," said Supervisor Coonerty.

Four years ago, California passed a clean air law, Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), that holds polluters accountable and requires them to reduce air pollution that threatens human health and contributes to global climate change. This law has launched California to the forefront of the clean technology industry, sparking innovation and clean energy businesses that are creating hundreds of thousands of new California jobs.

Supervisor Coonerty commented, "With AB 32, California took the bold and vital step to limit the greenhouse gas emissions that lead to climate change. We need to substantially reduce carbon emissions in order to reduce both the pace and magnitude of climate change. Proposition 23 would take us in the wrong direction."

Proposition 23 would lead to more air pollution in California and threaten public health. Air pollution is a major threat to public health in California, with alarming rates of asthma and lung disease, especially among children.

Clean energy businesses and technologies are bright spots in our economy. California's clean energy and clean air law has put California in a unique position to lead the clean energy and technology market, both in the United States and abroad. If we roll back our clean energy standards, California could lose hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in investments to other states.

Proposition 23 is opposed by the AARP, the League of Women Voters, the Sierra Club, the American Lung Association, and the California Labor Federation, among many others.

Supervisor Coonerty said, "Proposition 23 is bad for our economy, our air, and our energy future."

Dated: August 25, 2010

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